

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, 47405

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
JORDAN HALL 222

AREA CODE 812
TEL. NO.

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Dear Josh:

I understand that you are exceedingly well set up for analysis of human data with bearing on genetic problems. You may know that I have for 10 years accumulated the data on human pregnancies and births collected by the N.Y. City Department of Health. When I started they held their records only two years. Whether this is still their practice, I don't know. In any case, I have records for years which they, I believe, no longer have.

My interest was to examine the possibility of age-correlated gross chromosomal damage in men by looking for a rise in the frequency of early foetal death in offspring of men of increasing age, holding the mother's age constant (i.e. within 1 year). Some preliminary runs, before I had the full ten year set of data, indicated that the frequency did rise, beginning at paternal age about 45, in the whites, but probably not in the Negroes. Several possible explanations of the Negro-White difference - if it is significant - will occur to you, e.g. higher incidence of illegitimacy among Negroes and/or lesser periods of sperm storage before ejaculation (cf. indications of increase in mutation rate with time during aging of sperm in *Drosophila*).

There are many interesting data on my records. Newcombe used them in one publication. I have all the data transcribed from cards to tape.

The purpose of this letter is to inquire whether you would be interested in taking over my data tapes and having them used.

SONNEBORN

I am not willing myself to take the time and care needed to do a good job with them. And without such care, the inherent chances of ~~the~~ being led into misinterpretations seem pretty high. I would be happy to turn over everything I have on this to you and your group on only one condition, namely that whatever else you do with the data, you accept the obligation of analyzing them from the point of view of the question I raised about paternal age and, in any publication on that question which includes these data, acknowledge in a footnote that my AEC contract # AC-11-235 made it possible to get the data from N.Y., ~~and~~ tape them, and make an early tentative and preliminary study of them. I don't want to attach even this limitation on you getting the data, but feel I owe it to AEC.

I hope I have made clear that my records include many items other than age and fetal death. We can go into further details if you are interested. I am leaving Wednesday the 7th for a three-week trip to Europe and hope to find a letter from you when I return on the 29th.

As ever,
Tracy